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# Welcome to VMA

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September 2013



<http://www.vma.is>



- ❑ The school was established 1984
- ❑ Number of staff 140
- ❑ Number of students 1200
- ❑ Distance learning students 400



The school buildings are 14.500 square meters





# Departments in VMA

- ❑ Vocational studies 1-5 years
- ❑ Studies for matriculation examination 3 - 4 years
- ❑ Art department 4 years
- ❑ Preparation studies 1-2 years



# Departments

## Studies for matriculation examination

- ❑ Business
- ❑ Social studies
- ❑ Natural science
- ❑ Art
- ❑ Matriculation examination after vocational studies



# Good school for all students

- ❑ Variety and flexibility
- ❑ Opportunities for top students to finish education in shorter time and to study in more than one department
- ❑ Support for students in need of extra supervision
- ❑ Cooperation with student's homes



# Departments

## Vocational studies:

- ❑ Housing (painters, plumbers, carpenters, cabinetmaker)
- ❑ Metalwork
- ❑ Electronics
- ❑ Auto mechanic
- ❑ Engineering
- ❑ Hairdressing



# Departments

- ❑ Art department

- ❑ Design and textiles
- ❑ Fine arts





# Departments

Vocational studies:

- ❑ Culinary
- ❑ Nurse assistants
- ❑ Sports
- ❑ Business



# Engineering



# Metalwork, welding





# Culinary department, cooking and waiter



# Electronics



Our student at World Skills 2013

# Carpentry





# Good school for all students

- ❑ Students with special needs
  - ❑ Support and supervision
  - ❑ Introduction to vocational studies
  - ❑ Introduction to working environment and supervision and support at workplace.



# Students with special needs

- 4 years study prepering students for work and daily life.



# Service for students in VMA

- Students counseling (academic and personal tutoring)
- School nurse
- Project manager for kids at risk; drug- and drinking abuse prevention
- Psychologist
- Dormitory in cooperation with Menntaskólinn á Akureyri (Akureyri Junior College)



# Students social life

- Project manager for students social life
  - Two teachers work with the students board
  
- Highlights of the year!
  - Students annual celebration
  - Students song contest
  - "open days"
  - Thursdays night events (boccia, coffie house, girls only party, boys only party, music night, etc.)
  - Various competitions e.g. sport, quiz show, speech competition and competitions in students study (vocational studies for World Skills).



# First day at school!





# Graduation celebration





# Graduation



# Building bridges between school and labour market

- The school system needs to work with the companies and the labor market to improve understanding of needs and develop the level of training and education.
  - There is great need for people with vocational and technology education in Iceland.
  - VMA is the biggest vocational school outside Reykjavík area.
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# Building bridges between school and labour market

- Sustainability – VMA and the micro-society
  - car mechanics, marine engineer, nurse assistant, carpenter, electrician, electronics engineer, metalworker...etc.
  - Important for the University of Akureyri



# Leonardo Project at VMA 2011 - 2013

- Work- mentor <http://workmentor.vma.is>
    - The main objective of the project is to transfer mentoring methods into the relationship between a member of staff and a student in a workplace.
    - The employee / workmentor is guiding the student, giving the student a more secure beginning in the workplace but at the same time the mentor will work with the student towards the goal of becoming a fully functional member of staff and a qualified worker.
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# Iceland



# Geology

- ❑ Mountains, glaciers, valleys, fjords ...
- ❑ Immense variety of scenery, 200 volcanoes
  - ❑ 30 active since settlement
  - ❑ Eruption every fifth year
  - ❑ Frequent earthquakes but rarely harmful





# Geology

- ❑ **Glaciers: 11.5%**
- ❑ **Vegetation: 25.0%**
- ❑ **Rocks, mountains, lava: 63.5%**
- ❑ **Weather:**
  - ❑ **Reykjavík  $-0.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  -  $11.2^{\circ}\text{C}$**



# Population

- Population: 321 000 in 2013
- Language: Icelandic
- Ancestors: Scandinavian, Celts
- Settlement: in year 874
- Two thirds of the population live in the Reykjavík area
- C.a. 10% live in rural area
- The rest lives in towns and villages scattered around the coast line



# Akureyri

- Location:  
Eyjafjörður on the  
north coast
- Population:  
18,000
- Trade: Fishing,  
farming, industry  
and education



Down-town Akureyri during  
summer





Northern lights over Akureyri

